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## Resource Centre

### 100 Things to do with Books

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Based on *101 ways to react to books* by Nancy Mavrogenes in English Journal May 1977.

These are best used with students when copied onto cards.

**THE CHARACTERS**

Discuss how the main character is like or unlike people you know.

**THE CHARACTERS**

Pretend you're one character and introduce the other characters to your class.

**THE CHARACTERS**

As an interior decorator, how would you decorate a character's bedroom and why?

**THE CHARACTERS**

Invite one character to dinner and write a note of explanation to your mother.

**THE CHARACTERS**

Invite three celebrities to a party for the main character and explain your choice.

**THE CHARACTERS**

Write a page about a character beginning with the sentence: "I was (any verb) by ..."

**THE CHARACTERS**

Make a time line of the events in the life of the main character.

**THE CHARACTERS**

Write a chronology for one character.

**THE CHARACTERS**

Make up five interview questions (with answers) for the main character.

**THE CHARACTERS**

Explain where you think the main character will die.

**THE CHARACTERS**

For a film of your book, which actress would you choose for the leading female and why?

**THE CHARACTERS**

For a film of your book, which actor would you choose for the leading male and why?

**THE CHARACTERS**

Explain what the main character would prefer for Christmas and why?

**THE CHARACTERS**

Explain where the main character would prefer to vacation and why.

**THE CHARACTERS**

Explain what the main character would prefer for dinner and why.

**THE CHARACTERS**

Explain what the main character would prefer to wear and why.

**THE SETTING**

Make a map of your book.

**THE SETTING**

Compare where you live with the neighbourhood or town in your book.

**THE SETTING**

Draw the setting of your book and explain it.

**THE AUTHOR**

Write to the author and explain your reaction to his book.

**THE AUTHOR**

Write to the author and explain why his book appeals to your age group.

**THE AUTHOR**

Make up five interview questions (with answers) for the author.

**THE AUTHOR**

Pretend you're the author and explain why you chose the title of your book.

**THE AUTHOR**

Pretend you're the author and describe the part that was most fun to write.

**THE AUTHOR**

Pretend you're the author and tell what else you've written.

**THE AUTHOR**

Pretend you're the author and tell about your life and how this book fits into it.

**THE PAST**

Tell what you think happened before the story began.

**THE PAST**

Imagine that you're an eighteenth century student:  
How would you react to your book?

**THE PAST**

If your story took place one hundred years earlier,  
how would your main character act?

**THE PAST**

If your main character is from the past, how would  
he act if the book took place today?

**THE FUTURE**

If you were a man from Mars, how would you react  
to your book?

**THE FUTURE**

Describe what you think happened to the main  
character after the book ended.

**THE FUTURE**

Explain why your book should be included in a  
capsule to be dug up in one hundred years.

**THE FUTURE**

Make a horoscope for the main character  
explaining his sign and his future.

**COMPARISONS**

Compare your book with another book you've read.

**COMPARISONS**

Describe an experience you've had that was like

the experience of a character.

**COMPARISONS**

Compare your book with a movie or TV show of the same kind.

**PRESENTING**

Design a book cover for your book.

**PRESENTING**

Draw a comic strip of your book.

**PRESENTING**

Draw a portrait of your favourite character and explain something about it.

**PRESENTING**

Make any kind of illustration for your book (drawing, chart, graph) and explain it.

**PRESENTING**

Cut words or pictures from the newspaper to make a collage or ad for your book.

**PRESENTING**

Make a "WANTED" poster for the main character.

**PRESENTING**

Make a "thumbprint" book about your book (the figures come from thumbs dipped in paint" and write captions for these illustrations.

**PRESENTING**

Make a bulletin board about your book.

**PRESENTING**

Create a poster for your book.

**PRESENTING**

Write an ad for your book.

**PRESENTING**

Make a bookmark for your book.

**PRESENTING**

Collect pictures that go with your book and describe each.

**PRESENTING**

Write out your title decoratively and for each letter write a phrase about the book.

**SPEAKING**

Deliver a sales talk for your book.

**SPEAKING**

Make a tape about your book.

**SPEAKING**

Write ten discussion questions for your book.

**DRAMA**

Dramatise your favourite incident.

**DRAMA**

As a famous movie star, you have been asked to play a character: explain your answer.

**DRAMA**

Write a TV commercial for your book.

**DRAMA**

Make a TV script for one scene of your book.

**DRAMA**

Play "What's My Line" with one character: write out questions to portray him.

**DRAMA**

As a movie producer, explain why you will or will not make your book into a movie.

**DRAMA**

Explain how your book could be made into a movie: clothes, setting, cars, props, etc.

**CREATIVE WRITING**

Write any kind of poem about your book.

**CREATIVE WRITING**

Write a letter to a friend describing this book you are going to send him.

**CREATIVE WRITING**

Write a different ending for your book.

**CREATIVE WRITING**

Keep a journal as you read your book: your reactions, thoughts, feelings.

**CREATIVE WRITING**

Write a five-line "easy" poem about your book: a noun, then two adjectives, then three verbs, then a thought about the noun, and finally a synonym for the noun.

**CREATIVE WRITING**

Write two articles for a newspaper published at the

time of or in the country of your book.

**CREATIVE WRITING**

Write an obituary for one character.

**CREATIVE WRITING**

Write a diary for your favourite character.

**VOCABULARY**

Make a small dictionary (at least twenty-five words) for the subject of your book.

**VOCABULARY**

List fifteen interesting words from your book and tell why each is interesting.

**VOCABULARY**

List new words learned from your book: Define them and give the sentences in which you found them.

**VOCABULARY**

Choose some of the following words and explain how each applies to your book: stupendous, exciting, breathtaking, horrendous, fabulous, etc.

**LITERARY QUALITIES**

Quote passages of good description and good dialogue and explain them.

**LITERARY QUALITIES**

Find and write down twenty-five similes and metaphors.

**LITERARY QUALITIES**

Think about who the narrator is: then write one scene from the point of view of another character



and explain the switch.

**LIBRARY PROJECTS**

Do research on any topic connected with your book.

**LIBRARY PROJECTS**

In the "Reader's Guide" find five articles related to your book and tell how they apply.

**LIBRARY PROJECTS**

Find a quotation applicable to your book and tell how it applies.

**LIBRARY PROJECTS**

See if your book is in the library: then write a letter to the librarian either congratulating her for choosing it or asking her to order it.

**LIBRARY PROJECTS**

Find a poem which applies to your book: write it out and explain how it applies.

**CAREER EDUCATION**

Make a job application for the main character and fill it in.

**CAREER EDUCATION**

What did you learn about the vocation of the leading adult character?

**CAREER EDUCATION**

Find newspaper want ads of interest to a character and explain why.

**VALUES CLARIFICATION**

As a psychiatrist, analyse the conflicts and

problems of a character.

**VALUES CLARIFICATION**

Would you like to have a character as a friend?  
Explain.

**FUN**

Defend: This book should be read by everyone who  
hates reading.

**FUN**

Defend: This book should never be spoiled by a  
teacher requiring a book report.

**FUN**

Free choice: Do anything you want in connection  
with your book.

**FUN**

How many reasons can you think of to take your  
book to an isolated Antarctica camp?

**FUN**

Describe a field trip you would like to take because  
of your book.

**FUN**

Write one page on this: Why ..... should not read  
this book.

**FUN**

Make a crossword puzzle from your book.

**CAREER EDUCATION**

Write a business letter to the publisher and order  
copies of your book; explain why.

**CAREER EDUCATION**

From the yellow pages of a phone book, pick out businesses you think the main character would be interested in and explain why.

**VALUES CLARIFICATION**

How did the book change your way of thinking?

**VALUES CLARIFICATION**

Use this as a topic sentence, "This book made me (any verb)."

**VALUES CLARIFICATION**

Explain what the main character would be least likely to do and why.

**VALUES CLARIFICATION**

Did any character change during the book? Explain how and why.

**VALUES CLARIFICATION**

What problems did the main characters have and how did they meet them?

**VALUES CLARIFICATION**

If the book has a villain, was his punishment justified?

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